GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:631
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2004
IMPORT OF GAMBIER
Chandel Shri Suresh;Goel Shri Surendra Prakash

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a hazardous chemical i.e. gambier is being imported openly for use as catechu for mixing it in pan gutkha which is causing dreaded disease like cancer;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the import of said chemical is not being stopped;

(c) whether the Government is considering banning import of gambier; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (d) Gambier is a vegetable based tanning material and is used for dyeing purposes by the leather industry. Since the basic objective of the Foreign Trade Policy is to provide raw materials at international prices it may not be possible to restrict import of Gambier as it may have an adverse impact on export of leather goods from India.